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1. Under consideration is a proposal for the development of what amounts to a new intelligence gathering technique. Basic reliance would be placed upon agent teams which would be infiltrated for relatively short periods into selected locations in hostile territory. Such teams would follow essentially the black base pattern developed some years ago. In other words, they would go in to sustain themselves without contact with the local population for a very considerable period of time. They would be made up of three or more individuals per team.

2. An obvious limitation on the use of such teams is that they could most easily find and maintain bases in sparsely populated areas. One of the circumstances which renders this proposal worthy of consideration at the present time, however, is the growing importance of intelligence targets that are located in remote areas. These include: strategic air bases, land line communications, micro-wave links, missile ranges, and atomic energy facilities.

3. The major technical requirements for the success of such missions are the following:

- a. Means of infiltration and exfiltration,
- b. Means of secure communication from a base in enemy territory, and,
- c. Means for the profitable surveillance of the kind of targets referred to above.

4. The second and third requirements in the above list would not seem to be too difficult to meet. Radio communication is now feasible from behind enemy lines which is secure in the sense both that the message cannot be deciphered and that direction finding upon the point of transmission is impossible. As to means of surveillance, it is understood to be possible to build devices which intercept and record both land line and micro-wave communication. And, it should not be too difficult to design equipment which would maintain automatically photographic surveillance of selected targets from some distance for a considerable period of time. Some of the surveillance devices might even be so designed as automatically to transmit by radio the information recorded by them.

5. The difficult and inescapable requirement is for a means of infiltrating and exfiltrating agent teams so they can put such surveillance device in place and (hopefully at long intervals) service them. Infiltration by aircraft is not particularly difficult or dangerous, since deep penetration overflights can be made (often at very low altitudes) with acceptable risk and since both agents and supplies can be landed by parachute. This method entails the major liability,

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however, that the aircraft is usually tracked, even though not intercepted, to the point of infiltration and the nature of this mission is frequently surmised, with the result that the agent or agents are subjected to hot pursuit from the moment of their arrival. Moreover, exfiltration by air is enormously difficult, since "snatch" techniques are of limited dependability and landings are always hazardous especially in the absence of accurate information concerning the terrain on which the landing is to be attempted.

6. Despite these difficulties, the most promising prospect would appear to be the further development of the means of infiltration and exfiltration by air, especially since the borders of the Soviet Bloc in the general neighborhood of the most important strategic areas are either heavily defended and in thickly populated territory or else so remote and inhospitable as to be virtually inaccessible by overland or water travel. Moreover, certain developments may improve the prospects for air support of agent teams. It is understood that a small radio beacon is under development which would greatly simplify the problem of finding a desired location from the air. If air access to regions well within the USSR were possible, photo-reconnaissance might greatly reduce the hazard of landing on unprepared terrain. It would appear that the direction of further effort should be along this line.

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